



# LANGUAGE LINKS

## HOW TO LEARN ENGLISH THROUGH SONGS AND MUSIC: 6 GREAT TIPS

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Here are my 6 tips to help you pick the right music for learning English:

#### Select the right songs.

♪ Pick music you love. There's no point to learning English through songs if you don't really enjoy the music. This is the fast track to boredom.

♪ Find music that uses the right kind of language. Language which is not too easy or too hard, and which is commonly used.

♪ Another thing to watch out for is that sometimes singers won't pronounce the sound clearly. Perhaps heavy metal isn't the best place to start.

♪ You might want songs that tell a story, which could make it easier to understand and visualize. If you are a real beginner you might even want to learn children's songs or Disney songs.



**Study the lyrics and vocab.** In addition to digesting the content, it's also important that you review the vocab on a regular basis. Break the song down, word by word, and try to master each word so that it's a part of your vocabulary. You can do this in the following ways:

**Sing along.** Unless you're singing in front of an audience, it doesn't matter if you're the worst vocalist in the world. So don't worry if you don't possess any musical ability. Regardless of your singing prowess, you should try singing out loud to the music. This forces your mouth to adopt the right shapes and move with the rhythm of the song.

**Try to sing from memory.** After a while, you should find that you're starting to memorize the song. And then you're ready to take the next big leap – try singing the song without looking at the lyrics. By the point, you should be able to find that you can do a much better job including such words in your everyday speech.



**Periodically review.** You don't have to complete learning one song before you move to the next. In fact, after you get comfortable with one song, you can move to the next. And then after enough time passes, you can go back to the first song. This is called "spaced repetition" and it's been proven to be more effective than trying to learn it perfectly all at once.



**Find new music that builds on top of what you've learned.** This is perhaps the most difficult step. Each new song that you learn should have the right balance of totally NEW vocabulary and IN PROGRESS vocabulary. This right level of overlap keeps you motivated, and also naturally reinforces your previous learning for maximum benefit.

Have Fun and Enjoy! Music is a universal language and one that we can all enjoy and relate to. Listen to English songs every single day and you'll soon be surprised at how much of the English language you can pick up with relative ease. When you incorporate language learning into fun activities like listening and singing aloud to music, you won't even notice that you're picking up a second language.

By  
Traisuda



# CULTURE CORNER

## GENERAL BUSINESS CARD ETIQUETTE TIPS

One aspect of etiquette that is of great importance internationally is the exchanging of business cards.

Unlike in North America or Europe where the business card has little meaning other than a convenient form of capturing essential personal details, in other parts of the world the business card has very different meanings.

For example, in Japan the business card is viewed as a representation of the owner. Therefore proper business etiquette demands one treats the business card with respect and honor.

Below are a few examples of international business card exchange etiquette that may help you on your business trips abroad.

### BUSINESS CARD ETIQUETTE IN CHINA

- ★ Have one side of your business card translated into Chinese using simplified Chinese characters that are printed in gold ink since gold is an auspicious colour.
- ★ Ensure the translation is carried out into the appropriate Chinese dialect, i.e. Cantonese or Mandarin.
- ★ Your business card should include your title. If your company is the oldest or largest in your country, that fact should be highlighted on your card.



- ★ Hold the card in both hands when offering it.
- ★ Never write on someone's card unless so directed.

By  
Piyaporn

### BUSINESS CARD ETIQUETTE IN INDIA

- ★ If you have a university degree or any honour, put it on your business card.
- ★ Always use the right hand to give and receive business cards.
- ★ Business cards need not be translated into Hindi as English is widely spoken within the business community.



### BUSINESS CARD ETIQUETTE IN THE UK

- ★ Business card etiquette is relaxed in the UK and involves little ceremony.
- ★ It is not considered bad etiquette to keep cards in a pocket.
- ★ Business cards should be kept clean and presentable.
- ★ Do not feel obliged to hand out a business card to everyone you meet as it is not expected.



# HERE'S THE ANSWER

## LOVE AND RELATIONSHIPS



Q: Do you know English words to talk about relationships?

A: 'Hugs and kisses', 'butterflies in your stomach', 'a pounding heart' – what am I going on about? Love and relationships of course!

By  
Napassawan



Talking about relationships can be tricky, and you don't want to make a mistake when trying to tell someone else how you feel about them. To avoid any mix-ups, here are some useful words to talk about relationships in English.

When they are dating, people are often either '**casual**' or interested in a '**steady**' relationship. A '**casual**' dater, someone '**playing the field**', is someone who isn't looking for a serious relationship, while a '**steady**' dater is looking to possibly settle down with the right person soon.

Maybe you haven't had the opportunity to ask the person you like out on a date yet, or perhaps you only have a '**crush**'. A '**crush**' is when you really like someone but you haven't told them yet. Perhaps you might start '**flirting**' with them. If you '**flirt**' with someone, it means you are trying to playfully impress them.

Once people have started a serious relationship, they often say they have '**found the one**', referring to their '**boyfriend**' or '**girlfriend**', the person they want to be with forever.

Before they '**get married**' and make their relationship legally binding, some people enter into an '**engagement**'. When two people are '**engaged**', it means they have made an agreement to get married. There is often an engagement ring representing this promise.

However, sometime love stories come to end. Perhaps you and your '**significant other**' (the person you are with: boyfriend, girlfriend, husband or wife) no longer feel the same way about each other, and you no longer have '**butterflies in your stomach**' (that nervous feeling in your belly when you're with someone in the beginning). It might be time to '**break up**' with the other person.

This means to end the relationship and go your separate ways. If you are married, this break up would be called a '**divorce**'. You would need to officially document the separation to end your marriage.

Well, let's not end on a sad note here! There are other types of relationships like your 'best friend'. This is a friend that you are very close to and share many aspects of your life with. Some say relationships come and go, but friendships remain.





# BITS AND PIECES

## PUBLIC SPEAKING: GUIDELINES



Adapted from <http://www.studygs.net/speaking.htm>